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C.R. BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the year 1951



R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., F.R.I.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

R. W. ARMSTRONG, M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E.
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Boldon Urban District Council, 1951.

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR ROBERT FARROW.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR MRS. M.A.. SIMPSON.

COUN. T. BROWN.	COUN. W. TROUPE
„ T. P. EDWARDS (until 20/5/51).	(until 20/5/51).
„ J. J. EGGLISHAW.	„ J. TATE.
„ R. McDARMONT.	„ MRS. M. WEST.
„ S. ROBINSON.	„ W. T. WILSON, J.P.
„ JOS. W. SHAW.	„ J. W. WILLS.
„ J. TRACEY, J.P.	„ J. G. WRIGHT.
	„ J. WINTER. (Until Aug. 1951).

Chairman of the Health Committee :

COUNCILLOR M. HANNAH, J.P.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

EAST BOLDON.

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health : R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S.,
D.P.H., F.R.J.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector : R. W. ARMSTRONG, M.R.S.I.,
A.M.I.S.E.

Clerk to the Health Department : MISS H. MILLAR.

BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Boldon Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES & GENTLEMEN,

I hereby submit my eleventh Annual Report of the Health Department on the health and sanitary condition of the district for the year 1951, together with the report of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. W. Armstrong.

The following are the main features of the vital statistics.

The estimated population of 16,740 for 1951 furnished by the Registrar General shows a decrease of 360 on the population estimated for the previous year. The increase of Births over Deaths was 90. The Live Birth Rate was 17.8 per 1,000 of the population and the rate for still births 0.23 per 1,000. The Death Rate for 1951 was 12.7 per 1,000 of the estimated population and shows an increase on the figure estimated for 1950 which was 12.1 per 1,000. There were 8 more deaths in 1951 than in 1950.

The Infantile Mortality Rate was 16.7 per 1,000 Live Births compared with 23.7 per 1,000 in 1950.

The total number of notifications of Infectious Diseases received in 1951 was 124, a decrease of 18 on the previous year. Measles accounted for 65 notifications compared with 96 the previous year and Whooping Cough notifications 48 as against 27 during 1950.

We had no Enteric Fever, Malaria, Smallpox, Typhoid, Poliomyelitis, Dysentery, Erysipelas or Diphtheria cases during 1951. There were 6 cases of Scarlet Fever compared with 5 the previous year.

During the months of June and July, 1951, a localised outbreak of Benign Lymphocytic Choriomengitis involved some 85 patients in the Urban District of Boldon. The disease was characterised by intense headache, nausea and vomiting; residual neck stiffness lasted up to a month after all other symptoms had disappeared. The one definite laboratory finding was lymphocytosis.

in the cerebral spinal fluid. In an epidemic of this kind the diagnosis difficulty can only be overcome by an epidemiological team with unlimited time and suitable equipment.

Housing and Health—Overcrowding cases reported to the Health Department, especially those associated with Tuberculosis, were investigated, and given every consideration by the Housing Committee.

I again wish to acknowledge with gratitude the support received from the Members of the Council at all times.

REGINALD SMITH,
Medical Officer of Health.

*Health Department,
June. 1952.*

BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the Resident population for mid-year 1951 is 16,740.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The following table shows the extent of unemployment in the district :—

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total</i>
31st December, 1951	55	35	90

The number of unemployed for last year was

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
31st December, 1950	68	34	102

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1951.

Births and Birth Rates.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
LIVE BIRTHS	146	153	299
Legitimate	144	148	292
Illegitimate	2	5	7

The BIRTH RATE per thousand of the estimated population is 17.8.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
STILL BIRTHS	2	2	4
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate .....	.....	.....	.....

The STILL BIRTH RATE of the estimated population is .23.

Deaths and Death Rates.

During 1951 there were 209 Deaths registered as having occurred within the district, namely :—

118 males, and 91 females.

The DEATH RATE of the estimated population is 12.7.

The following table shows the variation in the Birth and Death Rates, and the increase in population during the preceding four years, as compared with 1951.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Birth Rate.</i>	<i>Death Rate.</i>	
1947	16,090	22.1	12.4	} Crude Death Rate.
1948	16,310	18.2	11.5	
1949	16,870	18.4	13.9	
1950	17,100	17.2	12.1	} Standardised Death Rate.
1951 ...	16,740	17.8	12.7	

Comparability Factor.

The Registrar General's figures include those of members of the armed forces who were stationed in the area. The population figures given are home populations (i.e.) including members of the armed forces stationed in the area). Area comparability factors for births and for deaths, allowing for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas, are Births 1.03 Deaths 1.03, these may be used for comparing birth rates and death rates with those in other areas.

Infantile Mortality.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate .....	.....	.....	.....

The Death Rate for all Infants per 1,000 Live Births is 16.7.

The following table shows the Infantile Mortality Rate for all infants per 1,000 Live Births in 1951 as compared with the preceding 4 years.

The Population, Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates for 1949, 1950 and 1951 are shown below for comparison.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Population.</i>	<i>Birth Rate.</i>	<i>Standardised Death Rate.</i>	<i>Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births.</i>
1949	16,870	18.4	13.9	32.0
1950	17,100	17.2	12.1	23.7
1951	16,740	17.8	12.7	16.7

INFANTILE MORTALITY PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>
1947	70.2
1948	50.5
1949	32.0
1950	23.7
1951	16.7

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

No deaths were notified as being due to puerperal causes.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT DURING 1951.

The causes of all deaths in the district during 1951 of males and females, are shown in the following table :—

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	5	1	6
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	0	1
3. Syphilitic disease	1	0	1
4. Whooping Cough	0	0	0
5. Diphtheria	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal infection	0	1	1

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8. Measles	0	0	0
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	0	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	3	10
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	0	4
12. Malignant neoplasms, breast	0	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	2	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	9	15
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	0
16. Diabetes	1	0	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	16	30
18. Coronary disease angina	23	11	34
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	5	7
20. Other heart disease	7	8	15
21. Other circulatory disease	4	0	4
22. Influenza	4	2	6
23. Pneumonia	7	3	10
24. Bronchitis	9	3	12
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	0	2	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0	0
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	3	5
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	0	3
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31. Congenital malformations	2	3	5
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	14	23
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	1	0	1
34. All other accidents	3	2	5
35. Suicide	2	0	2
36. Homicide and operations of War	0	0	0
All causes	118	91	209

A comparison of this table with last year's, shows an increase in deaths from Heart disease, Influenza, Pneumonia, Bronchitis, Congenital malformations and Cancer of Stomach and a decrease in deaths from other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms, diabetes and vascular lesions of the nervous system.

VITAL STATISTICS.

**BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY.
MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS
DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1951.**

(Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales.	126 County Boro's. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County.
Rates per 1,000 total population.				
BIRTHS—				
Live	15.5	17.3	16.7	17.8
Still	0.36	0.45	0.38	0.37
DEATHS—				
All Causes	12.5	13.4	12.5	13.1
Typhoid and Para- Typhoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.31	0.37	0.31	0.38
Influenza	0.38	0.36	0.38	0.23
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Acute Poliomyelitis incl. Polioencephalitis	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.61	0.65	0.63	0.61
NOTIFICATIONS :—Corr'd				
Typhoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid fever ..	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01
Meningococcal infect.	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03
Scarlet fever	1.11	1.20	1.20	1.10
Whooping cough	3.87	3.62	4.00	3.11
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.15
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	14.07	13.93	14.82	14.64
Pneumonia	0.99	1.04	0.96	0.72
Acute Poliomyelitis incl. Polioencephalitis				
Paralytic	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Non-paralytic	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02
Food Poisoning	0.13	0.15	0.08	0.23
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
DEATHS—				
All causes under 1 year of age	29.6(a)	33.9	27.6	26.4
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 yrs. of age	1.4	1.6	1.0	0.7
Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.				
NOTIFICATIONS :—Corr'd				
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	10.66	13.77	8.08	14.90

(a) Per 1,000 related live births.

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND & WALES.

	No. of Deaths.	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.	Rates per million women aged 15-44.
A115.			
Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	70	0.10	0
A116.			
Abortion with toxæmias	3	0.00	
Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	167	0.24	
A117.			
Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth	91	0.13	
A118.			
Abortion without mention of sepsis or sepsis or toxæmia	37	0.05	4
A119.			
Abortion with sepsis	66	0.09	7
A120.			
Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	125	0.18	

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR
THE AREA 1951.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Bacteriological Examination of sputa and throat swabs from general practitioners are undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory, Government Buildings Ponteland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, 5. Results and numbers of bacteriological examinations for the year 1951 are as follows :—

<i>For Tubercle.</i>	<i>For Diphtheria.</i>
Positive	6
Negative	36
—	—
42	6
—	—

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The County Ambulance Service, Ambulances, or sitting case cars are requisitioned for by the patient's Doctor, Midwife, Dentist or Nurse, and on production of a medical certificate supporting the need of transport.

Enquiries are referred to Hebburn Ambulance Station, 1 St. John's Avenue, Hebburn. Telephone Hebburn 32157.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

All information regarding the above is obtainable through the County Council who have a scheme in operation whereby the parents of children who have reached the age of eight months are sent an offer of Immunisation, together with information as to where it can be obtained and form of consent. If no record of immunisation is received by the County Health Department before the child attains its first birthday a reminder is sent in the shape of a birthday greeting card, which also contains information regarding immunisation. Contact is again made when the child reaches the age of four years and nine months. Vaccination also comes under the Durham County Council, information and form of consent is sent to the parents of children who have reached the age of three months.

NURSING ETC.

The inhabitants are provided with a Queens Nurse, District Nurse and two Health Visitors, each health visitor is responsible for the supervision of a separate district and are employed by Durham County Council.

DOMESTIC HELP.

Home Helps are booked for necessary cases by the County Council Home Help Service.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

A Clinic for children under 5 years of age is held at the Primitive Methodist Hall, Hedworth Lane, Boldon Colliery, once a week (Tuesdays) under the supervision of Durham County Council, there is also a Clinic and welfare centre held at the Wesleyan Hall, North Guards, Whitburn alternate Thursdays.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES CASES.

Arrangements were made through Sunderland Hospital Management Committee for cases for Infectious Disease

where necessary, to be removed to the Sunderland Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

CARE OF THE AGED SICK.

Several aged persons were visited during the year, urgent cases were admitted into Hospital for care and attention.

PREVALENCE & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The number of Infectious Diseases notified during 1951 was 124; this figure excludes tuberculosis and shows a decrease of 18 cases compared with last year. Measles showed a decrease of 31, whooping cough, pneumonia and Scarlet Fever a slight increase.

Contacts of Smallpox, and Poliomyelitis were visited and methods of prevention explained; Smallpox contacts were advised to be vaccinated and this was carried out without delay. There were no Smallpox or Poliomyelitis cases in this area.

An extensive research was carried out by the Medical Research Council and the Ministry of Health on Poliomyelitis early in the year; special Record Sheets and Envelopes were issued for future use.

Copies of the 1951 Regulations regarding Leprosy and Puerperal Pyrexia were issued to all medical practitioners practising in the Boldon Urban District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES NOTIFIED—1951.

Measles	65
Smallpox	—
Scarlet Fever	6
Diphtheria	—
Enteric Fever	—
Paratyphoid	—
Pneumonia	3
Peuperal Fever	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Dysentery	—
Whooping Cough	48
Acute Poliomyelitis	—
Food Poisoning	—

Disinfection of premises, bedding and clothing as usual is, carried out by your staff on the removal of cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and on the termination of the period of isolation if the patient has been nursed at home. Disinfections are also carried out at houses where the death or removal of a person suffering from Tuberculosis has occurred.

Visits are made to all the notified cases of the important infectious diseases, the history of each case is taken and investigation made of the possible source of infection ; the premises and infectious articles are disinfected.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLACTIC for immunising against Diphtheria continues to be kept in the Health Department for issuing to the local practitioners in the area. Diphtheria Antitoxin is available from the Chemists and Infectious Diseases Hospitals. Bottles of Disinfectant are issued from the Health Department on a Doctor's Note or Health Visitor's slip as usual.

CENTRAL KITCHENS.

The Education Authorities Central Kitchens were visited early in the year ; whilst these were in many ways favourable, I found it necessary to make certain recommendations regarding ventilation and the examination of new arrivals on the kitchen staff.

The number of notifications of the chief infectious diseases during the quinquennium preceding 1951, is shewn thus :—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.		Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Food Poisoning	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Acute Polio-myelitis	Paratyphoid	Dysentery
Year.	Population.													
1946	15,850	6	.....	4	19	10	.....	1	.....	9	16	.....	.....	.....
1947	16,090	8	.....	10	11	8	.....	3	4	79	20	3	.....	.....
1948	16,310	1	.....	9	11	5	.....	2	.....	33	5	.....	.....	.....
1949	16,870	1	.....	5	16	6	1	2	.....	36	3	1	2	.....
1950	17,100	2	.....	5	20	8	1	1	.....	96	27	9	.....	1
1951	16,740	.....	.....	6	18	4	.....	3	2	65	48	.....	.....	.....

The following table shows the age incidence of each of the infectious diseases.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1951.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.										Total Cases notified in each Ward.										
	AT AGES—YEARS.										Whitburn	Whitburn Coll.	East Boldon	West Boldon	Boldon Colliery	Whiteleas	Cleodon				
	At all ages	Under one year	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—35 years								35—45 years	45—65 years	65 upwards	
Scarlet Fever	6	...	...	...	2	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	4	2	24	...	...	19	...	2
Whooping Cough	48	...	9	8	7	3	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	4	...	13	...	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	65	2	8	5	9	14	27	...	...	2	...	1	...	13	29	3	4	...	13	...	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric or Typhoid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	124	2	17	13	18	18	50	...	...	5	...	1	...	19	32	28	4	32	2	7	

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year, 22 cases of Tuberculosis were notified. 18 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 4 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 7 deaths occurred from Tuberculosis. 5 were Pulmonary cases, and 2 Non-Pulmonary.

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1951

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0-1 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
0-5	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
5-15 .....	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..
15-25	1	3	..	..	..	1	..	..
25-35	2	5	..	..	1	1	..	..
35-45	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
45-55 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55-65	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
65 and upwards .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	7	11	4	..	3	2	2	..

WATER SUPPLIES.

The district is supplied principally by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company, and one house secures its supply from a shallow well.

ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLY.

(i) The water supply generally was satisfactory in quality and quantity during the year.

(ii) Bacteriological examinations of the water were made from the various deep wells of the Company which constitute the supply and also of the water as it reaches the consumer, and the following results were obtained :—

	No. of Samples	Neg. in 100ml	B.Coli %		Pos. in 1 ml
			Pos. in 100ml	Pos. in 10ml	
Wells	51	96.1	3.9	.....	.....
Reser- voirs	102	94.1	5.9	.....	.....
Taps	155	92.3	5.8	3.9	.....

(iii) The water supply has no detectable plumbo solvent action.

(iv) The supply is chlorinated and no form of contamination has taken place.

(v) (a) There are 4,993 Domestic Premises connected to the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company's public supply main in the Boldon Urban Council's area.

(b) There are no standpipes in the area.

A typical chemical analysis and Bacteriological Examination of the water supply is given below :—

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.	Parts per Million.
Total Solids	563
Chloride.....	60
Chloride expressed as Sodium Chloride	99
Total Hardness	393
Temporary Hardness	254
Permanent Hardness	139
Nitrogen as free Ammonia	Nil.
Nitrogen as Nitrate	2
Nitrogen as Nitrite	Nil.
Iron	Nil.
Colour (Hazen degrees)	5
Suspended Matter	Nil.
Total Hardness (degrees)	27.5
Temporary hardness (degrees)	17.8
Permanent Hardness (degrees)	9.7

In July, I visited the Station Master's House and Cottages at Boldon Colliery regarding the water supply.

An alternative supply of water was provided to the 9 cottages owned by the British Railways at Boldon Colliery Station by the Sunderland & South Shields Water Company. The cost of this was borne jointly by British Railways and the Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

To the Chairman, and Members of the Health Committee

I present for your consideration, my third Annual Report as your Sanitary Inspector which is for the year 1951.

The Sanitary condition of the district has been maintained in a reasonably satisfactory condition during the year.

It will be noticed that the number of inspections made, 2,337 have exceeded those of the previous years despite the fact that some functions have been lost.

The housing programme locally is proceeding as fast as labour and material resources allow, but owing to the demand for modern houses, in spite of the high rentals, it is likely to be some time before any real effort can be made for the reconditioning, repair or demolition of existing property.

Food premises in the area are generally good in regard to the premises themselves and their equipment, and steady progress is being maintained in an endeavour to bring them all up to the highest possible standard. Employees are contacted and instructed in the importance of the hygienic handling of foodstuffs of all kinds.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Members of the Council for their support and the Members of the staff for their co-operation during the year.

Yours truly,

R. W. ARMSTRONG,

Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS performed during the year :—

Complaints received during the year	161
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HOUSING.

UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

No. of Houses inspected	405
No. of visits made	812

UNDER HOUSING ACT.

No. of Houses inspected	33
No. of visits made	33
Cases of overcrowding investigated	8

DIRTY AND VERMINOUS PREMISES AND PERSONS.

No. of inspections	15
Miscellaneous visits	14

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number investigated	6
Number of visits made	12
Number of houses disinfected	19
Lots of Bedding disinfected or destroyed	21

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Visits to Butchers' Shops	106
„ Bakehouses	143
„ Fishmongers	14
„ Greengrocers and fruiterers	12
„ Ice Cream Premises.....	66
„ Restaurants and Cafes'	21
„ Grocers	35

GENERAL SANITATION.

Visits in connection with :—

Water supply	1
Drainage	43
Piggeries	104
Tents, Vans, Sheds	4
Factories	314

Workplaces and Offices	27
Theatres, Public Halls & Public Houses	43
Shops	383
Rats and Mice	139
Squatters' Camps	9

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year, the work of reconstructing and amending the sewerage and drainage system in the district was continued, and appears to be progressing smoothly. The storm water sewers will, it is hoped, relieve the situation with regard to the flooding of certain areas. Very little if any progress seems to have been made with regard to a large area of flooding on Boldon Flats which is increasing steadily due to mining subsidence.

The sewage of the district is discharged into the sea and the River Tyne, in a crude state.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

A number of additions have been made to the Sanitary accommodation in the district, as shown by the table below :—

<i>Type of Closet.</i>	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Ash Closets	75	75	70	68	65
Water Closets	5,025	5,251	5,373	5,566	5,584
Chemical Closets	7	7	7	29	29

No serious case of pollution has occurred during the year. One ditch which was neglected and choked was cleaned and regraded by the owner on request.

HOUSING.

Number of New Houses built and occupied during the year	237
Number of Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts	405
Number of Houses inspected under the Housing Act	33

Total number of visits made in connection with the above	845
Number of houses unfit for human habitation, in respect of which an undertaking was given for repair by owner	Nil.
Number of Houses found to require repair under the Public Health Act	82
Number of Houses found to require repair under the Housing Act	28
Number of Houses repaired under Public Health act after formal notices by the Local Authority	24
Number of Houses repaired under the Housing Act after formal notices by the Local Authority	8
Number of Houses repaired under the Public Health Act as a result of informal action	40
Number of Houses repaired under the Housing Act as a result of informal action.....	10
Total number of defects remedied	315

SQUATTERS' CAMPS.

During the year, the camp at North Pastures Farm, Whiteleas, was turned over to the Administration of South Shields Borough Council, when this part of the area was absorbed into their district. In August, as the result of an order from the War Department, the tenants still residing at Lizard Lane Camp, Whitburn, were given notice to quit, and offered alternative accommodation at Red Barns Camp, Wardley. The Camp was then returned to the control of the War Department.

At Red Barns Camp since then, several tenants have been rehoused by the Council: and some others have found permanent accommodation for themselves. At the end of the year 18 huts had been returned to the War Office and 14 were still in occupation.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There are five sites in the district used for the stationing of moveable dwellings. The Local Authority have byelaws in force with respect to camping sites and little difficulty is experienced with regard to the camps.

The caravan owners are made responsible by the land owner for the provision of suitable chemical closets and storage bins for refuse. He in turn provides water supply and arranges for the collection and disposal of the refuse usually on the adjoining farm land. Many of the vans are only used on fine weekends and it is difficult to force registration in these cases although every attempt is made to secure this.

During the year 5 visits were made to sites and caravans.

SCHOOLS.

No complaints have been received during the year about sanitary conditions in schools, and the water supplies by the Sunderland & South Shields Water Company are satisfactory. It has not been necessary to take any action during the year in respect of infectious diseases amongst school children.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

314 Visits were made to factories during the year, and the premises as a whole were in very good order, the only defects being minor ones.

The tables below are in the form required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

(1) INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>In- p ections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	10	58	.....	.....
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Auth.....	43	251	.....	.....
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	4	5	.....	.....
(excluding out-workers' premises). Total	57	314	.....	.....

(2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred</i>		<i>Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted</i>
			<i>To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>by H.M. Inspector</i>	
Want of Cleanliness .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Overcrowding .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Unreasonable temperature .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Inadequate ventilation .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ineffective drainage of floors .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
SANITARY CONVENIENCES					
(a) insufficient	2	1	.....	1	.....
(b) unsuitable or defective .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(c) Not separate for the sexes .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	2	1	.....	1	.....

PIGGERIES.

There are about 80 piggeries on commercial lines, and the number still seems to be increasing in spite of the rise in cost of foodstuffs. The remarks made in previous years with regard to the siting and construction of these places still applies to a great extent.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of household refuse is carried out by direct labour under the control of the Surveyor in a satisfactory manner. The refuse is disposed of by tipping into disused clay pits and other sites within the urban district, the ground being afterwards levelled and used for agricultural purposes.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No Statutory action has been necessary in connection with smoke abatement during the year. Premises using boilers and other coal fired plant are frequently visited and stokers etc., advised of the importance of avoiding the emission of smoke. One firm has been trying for a number of years to obtain a larger capacity boiler without success, which means that the one in use is overworked with consequent loss in efficiency and the constant likelihood of causing a smoke nuisance.

No complaints were received of smoke emissions from Colliery spoil heaps.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the area.

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year the bi-annual treatment of the sewers was carried out, and the results showed that former treatments had considerably reduced the rat population in the sewers. Only one district seems to have a firm residual population which is most probably due to the fact that the sewers are old and the land in which they lie is full of fissures which provide natural homes for the rodents.

12 Private houses have been treated for infestation of Rats. 6 business premises have been treated at the cost of the occupiers.

During the year a survey was made of all the Farms and large business premises in the district.

Difficulty was, and still is, being experienced due to non-compliance with the threshing of Ricks Regulations 1950, as both the farmer and the contractor claim the responsibility for providing nets is on the other party, and sanitary inspectors cannot be expected to know where threshing is taking place from day to day. Practically all the agricultural properties in the area are members of the County Rodent Destruction Scheme and are treated four times annually.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

All the premises in which food is manufactured or handled in a raw state have been regularly inspected at short intervals throughout the year, and many premises in which food is stored and exposed for sale have also been inspected. This involved a total of 453 visits spread over a total of 123 separate premises.

The majority of such premises have a supply of hot and cold water on tap, with a sink or washbasin for the washing of employees' hands. Continuous persuasion is being used on the occupiers without these amenities as to the advisability of providing them, but progress is necessarily slow. During the year 8 premises were provided with hot and cold water on tap. The Food Guild which was sponsored by the Council, never at any time received the wholehearted support of the tradespeople and they did not attempt to run it without continuous urging from this department. It served a good purpose in encouraging some of the traders to instal hot and cold water on tap, but unfortunately the few premises without have not been affected as the public continue to patronize them.

BAKERIES.

There are 7 bakeries in the area all of which are frequently inspected. The remarks made last year with regard to the lack of space still applies although

they comply with the statutory requirements. One bakery which commenced without securing the approval of the Town Planning Authorities was, after enquiry by the Minister, ordered to restore the premises to residential use, and closed at the end of December, 1951.

ICE CREAM.

There are three premises registered for the manufacture and twenty-one registered for the Sale of Ice Cream. The premises selling are in nearly every case receiving prepacked ice cream from various wholesale manufacturers. 22 Samples of Ice Cream were submitted to the Central Public Health Laboratory with the following results :—

		<i>Grade.</i>			<i>Total.</i>
	1	2	3	4	
Number of Samples	14	2	3	3	22

MEAT AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

No slaughtering of animals for sale for human consumption has taken place in this district for some time.

Slaughtering of livestock for the area is carried out at the Government controlled slaughterhouse at South Shields from where it is distributed to the local butchers. Much of the imported meat is dirty on the outside and has a poor unappetising appearance due to so much handling and transferring from cold store to cold store, whilst the home killed meat is frequently not properly bled and dressed, due to insufficient resting periods before slaughter and hurried methods of work.

Every endeavour is made to inspect all pigs slaughtered under the small pig keepers regulations.

BUTCHERS SHOPS.

There are 14 Butchers' Shops in the district which have been frequently inspected. They are mainly of a high standard hygienically, but the few who are merely complying with the legal requirements are being encouraged to further improve conditions on their premises.

Vans and lorries are inspected as opportunity occurs, and are usually in a clean state, although there seems to be an opening for properly designed and constructed vans for butchers selling from door to door as well as for wholesale delivery vehicles.

FOOD CONDEMNED THIS YEAR.

The following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

120 tins of Milk.	112 tins of Tomatoes.
3 " " Crayfish	6 " " Pilchards.
2 " " Jellied Veal.	14 " " Chopped Pork.
30 " " Peas.	11 " " Baked Beans.
62 " " Luncheon Meat.	6 " " Pork Brawn.
4 " " Strawberries.	10 " " Plums.
4 " " Sardines.	1 " " Peanut Butter.
10 " " Beans.	7 " " Beetroot.
4 " " Oranges.	3 " " Peaches.
1 " " Minced Beef Loaf	1 " " Grapefruit juice
1 " " Carrots.	10 " " Jam.
5 " " Grapes.	2 " " Pea Pudding.
2 " " Apples.	1 " " Figs.
7 " " Soups.	4 " " Cherries.
1 " " Bilberries.	6 Jars Pears.
2 Jars of Meat Paste.	6 Jars Lemon Curd.
112 lbs. imported pig feet.	8 lbs. Butter.
11 lbs. Bacon.	10 lbs. Fish Cakes.
234 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Cooked Ham.	

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The Durham County Council are the responsible authority for the administration of those sections of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, dealing with the adulteration of food, and they take samples for analysis.

SHOPS ACT, 1934 & 1950.

The Shops Act, 1950 came into force on the 1st of October, 1950, and re-enacted the sections of the 1934 Act relating to the duties of Sanitary Authorities which deal with heating, Ventilation and sanitary accommodation in shops.

During the year 368 visits were made in connection with the inspection of shops.

A summary of defects found is set out below :—

<i>Defect.</i>	<i>Number Found.</i>	<i>Number Remedied.</i>
Insufficient ventilation .....	.....	.....
Unsatisfactory Heating arrangements.....	.....	.....
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation .....	.....	.....
Sanitary accommodation not separate for the sexes	1	.....
Sanitary Accommodation—		
Dirty	2	2
Defective .....	.....	.....

There are 141 shops in the area and they carry on 17 types of business as follows :—

Cafes, etc.	3
Sweets & Ice Cream.....	8
Drapery, Clothers etc.	12
Grocery	37
Newsagents, Tobacco etc.	4
Greengrocery	12
Fishmongers	3
Fish & Chip Fryers	7
Bootmaker & Repairs	5
Butchers	13
Chemists	5
Bakers & Confectioners	8
General Dealers	13
Ironmongers	2
Hairdressers	7
Electrical Goods	1
Cycle Dealers	1

